



## Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: August 14, 2014

*Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.*

### **Administrative Business:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by the ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical). Meeting minutes were taken by the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love (Eurofins Lancaster Labs Env). The July 2014 ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved, with a motion by Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) and seconded by Lauren Jenkins (IAL).

**Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ECLP):** A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA).

No pertinent information to communicate at this time.

**Proficiency Test (PT) Program:** A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA).

The July Drinking Water (due 9/11/14) and Air (due 10/2/14) PT studies are in progress. The SHW PT study letters went out. This is for the October study to start after 10/1/14 and due by 12/24/14. The TNI labs must stay within their 5-7 month schedule so they are not to deviate from that to meet the NJ dates.

In the past the NJ policy was to allow labs to drop analytes from accreditation at any time even if they had failed 2 PTs. Now the suspension time must be served before the failed analytes can be dropped.

Bolded analytes on the PT lists are only needed once per year for TNI labs since these are not on the TNI Fields of Testing (FoT) tables.

NJ EPH is only required as a soil PT at this time.

Questions on the PT Program may be emailed to Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) at: [rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov](mailto:rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov)

**The NELAC Institute (TNI):** A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA).

The TNI Microbiology Working Draft Standard (Volume 1 Module 5) is open for comment until 9/5/14. <http://www.nelac-institute.org/cms/posts/1407345065.php>.

Revisions to the TNI PT Module Volumes 3 & 4, which impact the PT providers and accrediting bodies, are going out for vote. The TNI PT committee is reviewing comments that were received for Volumes 1 & 2, which impact the labs, and expect to have a new draft standard ready by the end of this year.

A new WW FoPT table will be published. EDB/DBCP will be split out as a low level VOA list and multi-level PTs will be created. SIM is not part of this low level list; only two ABs require SIM PTs. NJ does not. It will take about 2-3 years before this is in place.

As a reminder, per the CFR, Drinking Water PTs must be analyzed by every method for which a lab holds accreditation. The regulation does not state "reported by" every method. Therefore, for example, analyzing a PT by the IC method 300 and then also reporting the value obtained under other methods for the analyte is not acceptable. States will start asking to see the raw data for each method reported to ensure that the PT was actually analyzed by each method.

**Sludge / Biosolids:** No program updates were reported. For questions regarding this program contact Anthony Pilawski at [Anthony.Pilawski@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Anthony.Pilawski@dep.nj.gov), 609-633-3823.

**Division of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water:** A program update was provided by Linda Bonnette (NJ DEP-BSDW).

The Drinking Water Roundtable meeting is scheduled for 9/17/14 at the Horizon Center in Hamilton NJ. The department is working on approval for continuing education credits for operators. They may be able to give a certificate of attendance to be held for credit later if the approval does not come through in advance of the meeting.

The department is working on developing a form for cryptosporidium reporting which would enable the reports to be submitted with a separate lab reporting the e-coli portion. Currently, only 9 labs offer the cryptosporidium testing so the e-coli portion is often performed by a separate lab.

Questions on the Drinking Water Program may be emailed to Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) at: [linda.bonnette@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:linda.bonnette@dep.state.nj.us)

**Site Remediation Program:** A program update was provided by Greg Toffoli (NJ DEP-SRP).

The Soil Remediation Standards (NJAC 7:26D) are being updated. The proposal is slated for publication in June 2015 with a one year comment/adoption period. However, this schedule may be bumped by other priorities. The screening levels will become standards and some levels will change. ELAC will be notified if the committee posts updates, minutes, etc, during this process.

Implementation of the Technical Guidance seems to be going smoothly. There have not been many questions directed to the department. Laboratories indicated implementation times from throughout September, often based on completion of IT updates. Please note that the QC limits that are in the document are a guide. The labs do not need to perform corrective action based on these limits but can comment if the QC is outside the DKQP limits but within the lab limits. One of the goals of the guidance is to have the LSRPs focus the compound list based on the phase of the project and communicate to the labs if QC limits are critical or not. The LSRP is to provide the project required list of compounds of interest, RLs, QC, etc. This can be in a formal QAPP or as a summary table.

Questions on the SRP program may be emailed to Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-SRP) at [greg.toffoli@dep.nj.gov](mailto:greg.toffoli@dep.nj.gov).

**Subcommittees:**

**MUR Subcommittee:** Deb Waller (NJDEP-OQA) was not present for the meeting but submitted the following update.

The tables for the 5000 and 6000 sections for the standard will be submitted to the committee for review in the next month. Section 4000 will be divided up among the committee members to create the tables.

**Electronic Data Deliverables Subcommittee:** An update for the SRP-EDD Subcommittee was provided by Andy Geary, Henry Kindervatter, Roger Page, and Ken Liao (NJDEP-SRP-BIS).

The discussion this month centered on qualifiers. Please review the discussion summary below and provide feedback.

1. We discussed the SRP need for a QA qualifier "glossary table" which would include definitions of all the qualifiers submitted. We agreed that a QA qualifier glossary table would be included with each submission. We agreed that the glossary would include a list of standard or SRP qualifiers as well as a list of non-standard or lab specific qualifiers. The standard qualifiers would not change but the list of non-standard qualifiers could change from submission to submission.
2. We agreed that labs would not reuse standard qualifiers as non-standard qualifiers and vice versa.
3. We discussed the difficulty SRP was having with multi-letter qualifiers. When we designed earlier versions of EDSA we did not realize there would be so many qualifiers and / or lab specific qualifiers to merit more than one character. We assumed we would be able to electronically parse them out. This is no longer true. Currently, if we get a string of qualifiers such as ABC we do not know if the qualifiers being reported are A, B, C, AB, BC, etc. In addition, some labs put abbreviations in the QA qualifier field such as DUP for 'duplicate' or ND for 'non-detect'. These abbreviations can also be mistakenly identified as qualifiers.

After discussing several options at the ELAC meeting and following the ELAC meeting, only one option has survived scrutiny. The option is:

- a. **Delimiters** - Each qualifier is separated by a delimiter such as a comma or semicolon. We would prefer that each qualifier is separated by a semicolon. Numbers would also work but are not preferred. When a delimiter is used, qualifiers can be more than one character; they can be easily identified via a glossary; and they can be standard or lab specific. **If a delimiter could be added via your post-processor, the LIMS would not have to be reprogrammed.**

We don't want to be overly burdensome but other options such as interpreted qualifiers do not clearly identify lab specific qualifiers and this was part of our criteria. If you have any ideas that would enable us to clearly identify and query standard and lab specific qualifiers, let us know. In addition, please talk to your programmers and let us know what they say.

Questions and comments may be directed to Andy Geary (NJDEP-SRP-BIS) at: [andy.geary@dep.nj.gov](mailto:andy.geary@dep.nj.gov)

**Communications / OQA Website:**

ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) reported that the NJDEP-OQA **website** is up to date. ELAC members and stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for both the NJDEP-OQA and NJDEP-SRP listserv options to receive email notifications from NJDEP. Please check your email address to be sure it is correct. They are noticing a number of undeliverable emails.

NJDEP has migrated to MS Office 365 which involves a change to their domain name to "dep.nj.gov" that in turn results in changed email addresses. There will be a one-year phase in period until the old email addresses are removed.

**Meeting Schedule:** The Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental) and, seconded by Greg Tomkovich (Accutest). The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 9:30AM**, at NJDEP, 401 East State Street, **5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room** in Trenton, New Jersey. Those planning to attend must email the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love at: [dorothylove@eurofinsUS.com](mailto:dorothylove@eurofinsUS.com) by Friday, August 28, 2014.

**Note:** *All visitors must show one form of photo identification, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at the NJDEP main lobby in the Trenton, New Jersey complex (401, 501, 440 and 428 E. State Street buildings). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification. **Visitors must be escorted at all times by a NJDEP representative when in the building.***